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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Former Background Investigator for Federal Government Pleads Guilty to Making a False Statement

Washington, D.C. - Anthony J. Domico, a 67-year-old former contract investigator, who conducted federal background investigations on behalf of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management ("OPM"), has pled guilty to one count of making a false statement, U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. Domico, of Tinley Park, Illinois, entered his guilty plea yesterday in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Richard W. Roberts. Domico is scheduled to be sentenced on April 6, 2010, and could face up to 16 months in prison under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines as a result of the guilty plea.

According to a factual proffer agreed to by Domico at the plea hearing, Domico was employed by CACI International Inc. ("CACI") and Systems Application & Technologies, Inc. ("SA-TECH") as an investigator under contract to conduct background investigations on behalf of OPM. OPM's Federal Investigative Services Division ("FISD"), formerly known as the Center for Federal Investigative Services, is responsible for conducting background investigations for numerous federal agencies and their contractors. FISD has an investigator workforce comprised of federal agents employed by FISD and investigators employed by various companies, such as CACI and SA-TECH, under contract with FISD to conduct background investigations. FISD conducts background investigations of individuals who are either employed by or seeking employment with federal agencies or government contractors. The purpose of the background investigations is to determine an individual's suitability for positions having access to classified information, for positions impacting national security, and for receiving or retaining security clearances.

In conducting these background investigations, contract investigators conduct interviews of individuals who have information about the person who is the subject of the background investigation. In addition, contract investigators seek out, obtain, and review documentary evidence, such as employment records, to verify and corroborate information provided by either the subject of the background investigation or by persons interviewed during the investigation. After conducting interviews and obtaining documentary evidence, contract investigators prepare

a Report of Investigation ("ROI"), containing the results of the interviews and records reviews, and electronically submit the ROI to OPM in Washington, D.C. OPM then provides a copy of the investigative file to the requesting agency, which uses the information to determine an individual's eligibility for employment or security clearance.

Between October 2005 and August 2006, in more than two dozen ROI's on background investigations, Domico represented that he had interviewed a source or reviewed a record regarding the subject of the background investigation when, in fact, he had not conducted the interview or obtained the records. For example, on April 4, 2006, in a ROI of a background investigation of W.H., Domico represented that he had interviewed J.A.S. about W.H. (and reported what J.A.S. had purportedly stated about W.H.), when, in fact, Domico could not have interviewed J.A.S. about W.H. because J.A.S. had died in 1994. On the same date, Domico electronically submitted his ROI to OPM on the background investigation of W.H., which contained this false representation.

Domico's false representations were material, as they influenced the government's decisions and activities with respect to the subjects of those background investigations. Domico's false representations have required FISD to reopen and rework numerous background investigations that were assigned to Domico during the time period of his falsifications, at an estimated cost of \$69,611.12 to the United States government.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the hard work of Special Agents Derek M. Holt and Shantel Robinson, OPM, Office of the Inspector General, and Philip Kroop, Chief, Integrity Assurance Group, FISD. Mr. Phillips also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ellen Chubin Epstein and Thomas E. Zeno, who investigated and prosecuted this matter.

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